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Local History & Genealogy Dept.  
Thigpen Family**

Prepared and compiled by Sylvia Smith....1987.

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CHARLEY H. SMITH / ELIZA THIGPEN

Falls Co. Tx. 1900 Census  
Enumerated 18 June 1900;  
hence ages listed herein..

Charley and Eliza married in 1891 in Falls, Co. Texas. According to the 1900 Falls Co., Texas Census they were living together on a farm which they owned, free and clear of mortgage. At this time Charley was 35 years of age; and Eliza was 38. With them lived seven of her nine children. Those living in the household were Charley Frank, 8 yrs old; Gracey Phillipine, 7; Emmitt, age 3; and Willie Rowena, 2 yearsold. Also living with them were three of Elizas five children from her previous marriage to Erick Goelzer. These children were Nellie Marie, 16 yrs of age; Dora Helen, 14; and Isabella 12 years old.

The other two children were living in the home of Robert B. Thigpen of Falls County, Texas; Eliza's brother. August Goelzer age 17; and Theresa Amelia age 18 who by this time had been married to James E. Young for 3 years and were listed as "boarders" in the Thigpen home on the 1900 Census.

Charley Smith was born in Louisiana as was his father though his mother was born in Germany; according to the 1900 Census.

Eliza Thigpen was born in Alabama. Eliza stated on the 1900 Census that her parents were born in Alabama, while her brother Robert states their parents were both born in South Carolina. (This will need further research to prove or disprove) Also brother Emmitt Thigpen says Alabama.

Eliza was married to Erick Goelzer in Alabama where three of their children were born. (Erick is said to have been born in Berlin, Germany although one record indicated Pennsylvania) Sometime after February 1884 they removed to Mississippi because Dora Helen was born there 26 March 1886 (probably at Scranton, Jackson /Co. where Ericks' father Col. August Goelzer lived) By February 1888 they were living in Texas, Falls Co.; where Isabella was born. The very next year Erick (Eliza and Children, too; I presume) returned to Mississippi (in 1889, probably due to Col. Goelzers health....he died 1889. While there Erick also died (1889) of complications due to measles. So far, there is no indication exactly when or how Eliza and Children returned to Texas.

At some point between 1900 and 1907, Charley left his family for parts unknown. (Isabella Goelzer Blasingame told her daughter Lucille Blasingame Burton the following: "After Charley Smith left he wrote a letter to Eliza from Corsicana, Texas but Elizas son August Goelzer intercepted the letter.....Eliza never knew about the letter." Isabella thought that he wanted to come back to Eliza.

Eliza with the help of her family cared for her children until her death in 1907 at age 46 yrs.

Now the children had to be separated; Emmitt & Gracey went to "Uncle Bob" Thigpen while Willie was placed in the home of her half-sister, Theresa Goelzer

President b  
Falls Co. Tx. 1900 Census  
Enumerated 25 June 1900.

Lucille Burton  
says family went.

to the lives of Charley Smiths' children

## Thigpen Family

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2008

THE MISSISSIPPI PRESS

**FACES OF THE COAST**



**Sylvia Thigpen**

Attending Merry Co. Round Daycare has become a tradition for some Moss Point families in the last 30 years, said Sylvia Thigpen, 56, opened the day care after leaving working in the public school system for 15 years and a half years. "I saw kids that couldn't read, didn't know their names, and some didn't know their parents' names. They just called them 'momma,'" Thigpen said. "I saw a need for children to learn the basics." Over the last three decades, she has taught the children and grandchildren of those who graduated from the day care, she said. The mother of three feels rewarded when she sees children learn how to work independently, she said. A member of New Covenant Ministry in Moss Point, Thigpen works six days a week for about 12 hours a day, and said she tries to make time to visit with seniors in her neighborhoods. "Elderly people are my life. I love elderly people," Thigpen said. "There are a lot of elderly people out there who don't have anybody."

Sara Frye/The Mississippi Press